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merely to be done, in accordance with a time-honored contract, we could name many vocalists competent to undertake it; and, indeed, guided by this principle, we see no reason why the places in the orchestra, so worthily occupied by some of the greatest artists in England, should not be supplied by inferior performers at half the terms. We are willing, however, to admit that having engaged a good orchestra, and two or three first-rate vocalists, the Stewards considered that it was very easy to procure singers who could support the subordinate parts well enough to satisfy the audience. Passing over the want of a first tenor and contralto, we deny even that the subordinate parts *have* been satisfactorily filled. Madlle. Titiens sang well, but how was she supported? Take for instance, the trio in *Elijah*, "Lift thine eyes," and we unhesitatingly say that a worse exhibition was never heard in public. It must be remembered that it is difficult for an artist to defend herself against this, since she assumes that when she is engaged for a great Festival, none but tried singers will be placed with her. What, for instance, would Mr. Pratten or Mr. Lazarus say if the second flute or second clarinet could scarcely play a scale?

We have been urged into the expression of these plain truths, because we feel that now is the time rather to raise than to lower the character of these meetings. At Hereford, last year, all the best artists were engaged; and yet a pecuniary success was the result. Why then should Gloucester, with eighty-one Stewards, allow itself to suffer by comparison with its neighbour, who could only muster as many as fifty? These meetings should be conducted with an unity of feeling which would render them as impregnable to artistic, as they have hitherto been to clerical, attacks; and there can be little doubt that, based as they are upon the furtherance of charity, the Festivals of the Three Choirs must continue to hold that high place in public estimation which they have already enjoyed for upwards of a century.

The accounts of the Festival are not yet completed; but we have reason to believe that the amount eventually handed over to the Charity will not fall far short of twelve hundred pounds; whilst the sale of tickets has been so unusually large that we scarcely think any deficiency will have to be made up by the Stewards. To Mr. J. H. Brown, the indefatigable Secretary, we must tender our personal thanks for the courtesy we received at his hands; and we can also bear testimony to the kind attention evinced by the many Stewards who so generously gave their time and services to the good cause.

#### NEW ROYALTY THEATRE.

A SMALL but effective vocal company has been engaged at this establishment, which opened on the 2nd ult., under the direction of Miss Fanny Reeves, with a new Operetta called *Castle Grim*; the *libretto* by Mr. Reece, and the music by Mr. G. B. Allen. Without aspiring to a high character of composition, Mr. Allen has in this little Opera written some very agreeable and pleasing music; and in many parts, especially in the *finale* to the first act, has shown that he possesses something more than the mere faculty for song writing. Miss Susan Galton, who on this small stage seems more at home than she ever did at Her Majesty's Theatre, sang exceedingly well throughout the Opera; and Mr. George Honey was irresistibly comic in the part of the servant who, with a lively temperament, is engaged to look grave by the melancholy master of *Castle Grim*. His song "A good broad grin" is really excellent of its kind. Mr. Elliot Galer, as the misanthropic student, and Miss Fanny Reeves, as one of the servants at the castle, are also thoroughly efficient; and the Operetta is likely, we think, to run for some time.

#### MR. ALFRED MELLON'S CONCERTS.

THESE Concerts give a musical life to the metropolis at this proverbially dull season, which must ensure for them the patronage of those lovers of music who happen to be in town, even if they did

not claim attention by their own intrinsic merits. The programmes are generally too varied to attract those who can only revel in the highest works of art; but Mr. Mellon does his utmost to cultivate the taste for good music by occasionally devoting a night to the works of one of the standard composers. Madlle. Marie Krebs has been the *pianiste*, and appears to have established herself very firmly in the good graces of the audience. Amongst the orchestral pieces, the selection from Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine* has been highly successful; the celebrated "unison" passage creating a perfect storm of applause. Madlle. Carlotta Patti and Madlle. Liebhart have shared the vocal music; and on the "Haydn and Weber" night, Madame Krebs Michalesi (the mother of Madlle. Krebs) gave two of Haydn's canzonets with much effect.

MR. ALFRED B. SMITH, Organist of the Parish Church of Clapham, who sends us a pamphlet containing a statement of the usage he has received at the hands of the Rector and several of the parishioners, must remember that it is exceedingly difficult outside the circle in which these matters take place, to form any correct opinion upon the conduct of those placed in authority, especially when we consider that clerical interference in the musical portion of the service is unfortunately so general. We know nothing whatever of Mr. Smith's qualifications for the office of organist, but should certainly attach the utmost importance to the testimonials he publishes. To us it appears that the weak point of Mr. Smith's case is the fact of his having secured the good opinion of many of the parishioners *before* he played at the trial; for as it does not seem that the competition took place before any competent umpires, the votes recorded in his favor must have been almost a matter of course. On the other hand, his re-election was an earnest proof of the estimation in which he was held by the majority of those who were in the constant habit of hearing him play; and whatever may have been the motive of the Rector in so pertinaciously insisting on his resignation, there can be little doubt that he might have found some more legitimate mode of displaying this feeling than by padlocking the organ during divine service.

THE Annual Soirée of the St. John's Wood Harmonic Society was held in the School-room of St. John's Wood Congregational Church, on the 16th ult. A lecture was delivered by Mr. Theodore Barnett; and Miss Marian Roche and Mr. Allen gave several pieces on the pianoforte with much success. A new glee by Mr. R. J. Wilmot was performed for the first time and greatly admired. The room was crowded, and the performance gave entire satisfaction.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

AMBITION.—*The progress of a young performer depends more upon the amount of time and attention bestowed upon practice than upon the exact age at which he commences. We have known many excellent players who began to study late, and many inferior ones who began to study early, in life. Provided the fingers are not too set to become elastic, there is every hope for an earnest student at the age mentioned to become a thoroughly efficient performer.*

R. E. T.—*Mr. Leslie's Oratorio "Immanuel" was first performed on March 2, 1854, at St. Martin's Hall, under the direction of Mr. Benedict.*

\*.\* *Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.*

*Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.*

*We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.*

*Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.*

#### Brief Summary of Country News.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collected from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.*

ADWALTON, NEAR LEEDS.—A Soirée in connection with the Miners' Union, was given in the Mechanics' Institution on the 16th ult. Mr. Matthew Arnold, of Leeds, performed a selection of pieces on the pianoforte with much ability; and several amateur vocalists contributed a number of songs, glees, &c.

HASTINGS.—The Working Men's Industrial Exhibition was opened at the Music Hall on the 7th ult., when a selection of sacred choral music was performed, including two Anthems by Dr. Whitfield, the "Hallelujah Chorus" from the *Messiah*, and the Gloria from Mozart's Twelfth Mass. About forty vocalists and instrumentalists took part in the performance.

LEICESTER.—On the 6th ult. a concert was given in the Lecture-room, Temperance Hall, by Mrs. Wolstenholme, assisted by Miss R. Christian, Master Wright, Mr. Oldershaw, and Mr. Allsop. Miss Sladen presided at the pianoforte; and a glee party, conducted by Mr. S. Cleaver, lent their aid on the occasion.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The seventh concert for the present season of the Philharmonic Society took place on the 12th ult. Being the first performance that has been given since the lamented death of the late conductor, Mr. S. Z. Herrman, Mr. Alfred Mellon, into whose able hands the *bâton* has now fallen, directed the orchestra with his usual care and judgment. The vocalists were Miss Louisa Pyne, Messrs. G. Perren, and W. H. Weiss. The first part was devoted to Mr. Henry Smart's clever Cantata, *The Bride of Dunkeryon*; and the second part was miscellaneous, commencing with Beethoven's Symphony in C major, and concluding with the Pageant March in Gounod's *Reine de Saba*. The concert afforded the utmost satisfaction to a numerous audience.

**LLANDAFF.**—The Fourth Annual Musical Festival of the Diocesan Church Choral Association took place in Llandaff Cathedral on the 13th ult. About 40 choirs attended, forming an aggregate of upwards of 1,000 voices. The procession, headed by the Cathedral Choir, was attended by 70 of the clergy. The musical service was conducted by Mr. L. S. Palmer, the organising master to the Association. Mr. Wilkes, F.R.A., presided at the organ with his well-known ability, and the singing of the choirs showed that they had attained a proficiency highly creditable to their director. The sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of St. David's. At the conclusion of the service the choir and visitors repaired to a large tent, where dinner was provided for them. After dinner, the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, in proposing success to the Choral Association, expressed his great satisfaction at the manner in which the service had been performed, and spoke highly of the successful exertions of the organizing master and the secretaries. The concert in the evening was a great attraction, the orchestra being selected from the nobility and gentry of the country, assisted by the Cathedral Choir. The pianists were Miss King and Mr. Wilkes, and Signor Paggi was the solo Flautist. Amongst the vocalists the singing of Sir George Volken was much admired; and the whole of the choruses were extremely well given. Mr. Waldren was accompanist, and Mr. L. S. Palmer, conductor.

**NETHERFIELD.**—The Annual Harvest Festival took place on the 9th ult., when divine service was held in the district church of St. John the Baptist, of which the Rev. R. R. Duke, formerly of St. Leonards, is the incumbent. The interior of the church was very tastefully decorated with choice flowers and the products of the harvest field, the whole being under the direction of Mr. Charles Fuggle, the late organist, and Mr. Heasman, schoolmaster and organist. The musical arrangements for the service were very efficient, the strength of the choir being increased by the attendance of some well-known vocalists from Hastings and St. Leonards, whose assistance had been obtained by Mr. Fuggle. Mr. Heasman presided at the organ, and was assisted by Mr. Fuggle. The *Venite* was chanted to Boyce in D, the Psalms were also chanted, and the *Te Deum* was sung to Jackson in F, and the Benediction to Haydn in A. In the afternoon the whole of the grounds at Woodlands were thrown open; and in addition to the Battle Rifle Band which played at intervals on the lawn, several of the vocalists from Hastings sang a selection of popular glees.

**POPULAR.**—A concert was given in the Town Hall, High Street, by the members of the East London Choral Union, on the 6th ult., in aid of the funds of the Poplar Hospital. The band performed Boieldieu's Overture to the *Caliph of Bagdad*, and Rossini's Overture to *Il Tancredi*, and there was also a varied selection of vocal music. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Marshall, Miss Dixon, Miss Annie Jay, Mr. Evan, Mr. S. Jay, Mr. Yerlett, Mr. G. Pullen, and Master W. G. Pullen. Mr. H. F. Waller led the Band, and Mr. G. Pullen, conducted.

**PRESTON.**—On the 14th ult., the grand organ erected by Messrs. Kirtland and Jardine in Christ Church, Preston, was opened by Mr. Henry Smart. The organ has three manuals, CC to G, and pedal CCC to F, and 48 stops, namely, great organ 14 stops, swell organ 11 stops, choir organ 8 stops, pedal organ 6 stops, couplers, &c., 9 stops. The case of the instrument is in the Norman style, with richly illuminated front pipes.

**RAGLAND.**—A Choral Festival was held in the Parish Church on the 31st August, under the direction of Mr. L. S. Palmer. The chorus, numbering 300, sang the whole of the music with the utmost precision, giving ample proof of the good training they had received from their instructor. The proceeds were for the restoration fund. Mr. Rossier presided at the organ, and Mr. L. S. Palmer, conducted.

**SYDNEY.**—The fifth concert of the Philharmonic Society was given on the 20th July, at the Music Hall, when Haydn's *Creation* was performed with a full band and chorus. The solos were entrusted to Madame Flora Harris, a lady amateur, Mr. F. Ellard, and gentlemen amateurs. Mr. Black (amateur) was very successful in "Rolling in foaming billows," and "Now heaven in fullest glory shone," but the local papers do not award the same praise to Mr. F. Ellard, who endeavoured, it appears, to ornament the song "In splendour bright," with a total disregard of the purity of the composition. Very favorable mention is made of the bass singing of Mr. Waller (amateur); and Madame Flora Harris, in the song "With verdure clad," fully sustained her well-earned reputation. Some of the choruses were unsteady; but on the whole the Oratorio was very successful; and much praise is due to Mr. Cordner, whose exertions as conductor were on this occasion more than ordinarily needed to keep the band and chorus together. Mr. Younger (amateur) presided at the organ most efficiently.

**UPPER NORWOOD.**—On Wednesday evening, the 20th ult., the new Organ, built by Messrs. Hill and Sons, for the Congregational Church, was opened by Miss E. Stirling (of St. Andrew Undershaft E.C.) when an excellent selection of sacred music was performed. Principal vocalists: Misses Laroche and Pain, and Messrs.

Lord, Goodacre, Bush, Colquhoun, Bowden, Palmer, and Bridge; supported by an efficient chorus. Conductor, Mr. F. A. Bridge.

**ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. Hoggett, to Christ Church, West Hartlepool.—Mr. G. Alston Sarvent, to SS. Michael and All Angels, Shoreditch.—Mr. William Worrell, to the Parish Church, Beckenham, Kent.

## DURING THE LAST MONTH,

Published by NOVELLO & CO.

**MANN, RICHARD.**—A Manual of Singing for the use of Choirtrainers and Schoolmasters. By RICHARD MANN, Inspector of Choirs in the Archdeaconry of Salop, &c. In paper cover, price 2s. 6d.

**WALKER, J. H.**—Handbook of Vocal Music, compiled by J. H. Walker, Organist of Rugby School. Price 1s.

**CALKIN, J. BAPTISTE.**—Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, in B♭. Composed and Dedicated to the Members of the Special Sunday Evening Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral. Price 8d.

**SEVERN, T. H.**—Te Deum laudamus in C. Composed for Holy Trinity Church, Kentish Town. 6d.

**TRIMNELL, W. F.**—Te Deum laudamus. (Unison Service). 3d.

**K. R. B.**—Te Deum laudamus in F, being No. 1 of "Praise," a Choral Serial for the Congregation. Edited by William Volckman. 3d.

**ASQUITH, J. W.**—Three Responses to the Commandments. 6d.

**LÖHR, FRED. N.**—"Nearer, my God, to Thee." Hymn for Four Voices. 3d., or 2s. 6d. per dozen.

**CUMMINGS, W. H.**—"Oh, were I but a drop of Dew." A Four-part Song. Folio size, 6d.

**BEST, W. T.**—A Collection of Original Pieces, Composed for Church use. Book 2, price 3s.

**COOPER, GEORGE.**—Organ Arrangements, No. 10, price 2s., contains—Fughetta, Schwenke; Andante from Pianoforte Works, Op. 41, Mozart and Amen Chorus, from the *Inclina Domine*, Cherubini.

London: Novello and Co.

**ORGANIST (Resident) WANTED** for the Abbey Church, Selby. Fifteen miles south of York. N.E. Railway. Magnificent Church and very fine Organ. Fair opening for teaching. Salary £40. Attendance three times on Sunday, and twice (for service or else for practice) during the week. Appointment by competition, on Friday, the 13th October. Judge, Dr. E. G. Monk. Testimonials to character must be sent not later than Tuesday, 10th October, addressed to "Minister and Churchwardens," Parsonage, Selby.

**CHOIRMASTER and ORGANIST.**—Wanted for the Parish Church of Godmanchester, Huntingdon, an ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER. The organ is one of considerable power, erected July, 1860, and fully described in *Musical Times* of that date. Remuneration, £35 per annum. A good opening, and full liberty to teach in the neighbourhood. Two hours from London by G.N.R., one from Cambridge. Testimonials or references as to competency and moral character required. Apply to the Vicar.

**WANTED immediately, a Gentleman as ORGANIST and CHOIRMASTER** for a Parish Church in the North of Ireland. Salary, £25 per annum. There is a very good opening in the neighbourhood for a Professor of Music. Testimonials and references to be addressed to "M.M.," Post Office, Coleraine.

**ORGANIST and CONDUCTOR.**—A Gentleman is open to an engagement. First-class testimonials. Address "V.L.," Novello and Co., Dean Street, Soho, W.

**AN ORGANIST and CHOIR-TRAINER** is required for a large Country Parish. He must also assist the Clergyman in Sunday School. He would have musical pupils and other employment if desired. Address, Rector, Kibworth, Leicester.

**WANTED, an ORGANIST for the Parish Church** of Chagford. Salary, £26. Address, Rev. H. G. Hames, Chagford, Exeter.

**DEPUTY ORGANIST.**—An Organist is open to afternoon and evening engagements on Sundays. Town or suburbs, 7s. 6d. "P.L.T.J.," Cowper's, York Place, Walworth.

**ORGANIST.**—A Gentleman desires an engagement. Willing to take charge of a Choir. Good testimonials. Address, H. E. Cremona, Portland Villa, Terrace Road, South Hackney.